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LETTER DATED 6 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have received further information regarding Serbian and Montenegrin aggression against areas of free territory in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 40,000 civilians of Zepa are enduring their third consecutive day of intense artillery bombardment. Reports from the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina estimate that at least 134 civilians have already been killed, and 215 injured, and nearly 300 are missing and are feared dead. Because the bombardment of Zepa has been non-stop, the dead cannot be buried, nor can the wounded receive treatment. We have received a more recent but yet not fully confirmed report that approximately 400 civilians have been murdered in Zepa, a third of them children.

To further aggravate the humanitarian situation, new Serbian and Montenegrin troops brought from the town of Han Pisejak have broken through the defence lines of the lightly armed defence forces. The civilian population is fleeing the town for outlying caves and forests. The town's hospital has also been moved to an outlying cave, which has already become overcrowded with the wounded.

The free territory of Tuzla also came under shelling for the first time in two weeks. Preliminary reports from the city have confirmed that at least three people (probably members of the same family) have been killed.

Today and yesterday, aggressor forces have continued to shell Sarajevo. The heaviest shelling was directed towards the "Stari Grad" and "Centar" sections of the city, which are the most populated. The number of casualties cannot yet be confirmed.

We ask that the Security Council take immediate and resolute action to halt these intensified acts of aggression. Especially with regard to Zepa and the plight of its civilian population, we specifically request urgent helicopter evacuation of at least 215 civilians already wounded, who are doomed to die, unless properly and swiftly treated.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative